

The childish sarcasm is when a columnist or someone else says we would have to line up 200,000 buses to remove 12 million immigrants.

No one thinks you can enforce all our immigration laws overnight or instantly solve this problem, but just because we cannot solve this problem all at once does not mean we should just give up and open up our borders.

Our government estimated several years ago that half the people of the world would come here very quickly if allowed to do so. Our schools, hospitals, roads, jails, sewers, our entire infrastructure simply could not handle such a rapid, massive influx of people.

A couple of years ago, *Newsweek* magazine said half the people of the world have to get by on \$2 or less a day. Consistent with this was a column I read a few months later that said half the people in the world do not even have a second pair of shoes.

We are blessed beyond belief to live in this country. We all have great sympathy for those who have to live under difficult circumstances in other countries.

God has blessed every nation with natural beauty and/or natural sources that can make those countries rich. However, in most countries, people have fallen for the myth that government could solve all problems, and they have voted in liberal or left-wing governments or they have had dictators who forced big governments on them, and the economies have been ruined.

You cannot blame so many people for wanting to come here, and we all admire the work ethic of many who come here from other countries; but we cannot take in half the people of the world, especially in a short time. We have to have a legal, orderly system of immigration, and it has to be enforced.

Rush Limbaugh said a few months ago that if you do not have borders, you do not have a country.

Thomas Sowell, writing about this a few days ago, said, "We could solve the problem of all illegal activity anywhere by legalizing it. Why use this approach only with immigration? Why should any of us pay a speeding ticket if immigration scofflaws are legalized after the fact for committing a Federal crime?"

"Most of the arguments for not enforcing our immigration laws are exercises in frivolous rhetoric and slippery sophistry, rather than serious arguments that will stand up under scrutiny."

Mr. Sowell continues, "How often have we heard that illegal immigrants 'take jobs that Americans will not do'? What is missing in this argument is what is crucial in any economic argument: price.

"Americans will not take many jobs at their current pay levels, and those pay levels will not rise so long as poverty-stricken immigrants are willing to take those jobs."

And he went on in this column to say, "The old inevitability play is

often trotted out in immigration debates: it is not possible to either keep out illegal immigrants or to expel the ones already here.

"If you mean stopping every single illegal immigrant from getting in or expelling every single illegal immigrant who is already here, that may well be true."

Mr. Sowell said, "But does the fact that we cannot prevent every single murder cause us to stop enforcing the laws against murder?"

Mr. Speaker, with the Simpson-Mazoli Act 20 years ago, we tried the same type of law that some who want to be soft on immigration are advocating today, but that law led to a quadrupling of illegal immigrants. We simply cannot afford to let that happen again.

President Theodore Roosevelt said many years ago, in fact in 1919, "In the first place we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin."

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But this is predicated upon the man's becoming in very fact an American and nothing but an American.

And Theodore Roosevelt continued. He said, "There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American but something else also isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag, and this excludes the red flag, which symbolizes all wars against liberty and civilization, just as much as it excludes any foreign flag of a nation to which we are hostile."

And Theodore Roosevelt concluded this statement by saying, "We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language. And we have room but for one sole loyalty, and that is the loyalty to the American people."

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would say that if people want the rights, privileges, and opportunities of American citizens, they should wave the American flag. If they want to be Mexicans and wave the Mexican flag, and there is nothing wrong with that, but they should go home to Mexico to do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SOLIS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### LEGISLATION TO FIX THE MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague and friend, Representative MARCY KAPTUR, in talking about the trip to Ohio this week of Michael Leavitt, who oversees Medicare and Medicaid and our Nation's various health agencies as America's Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Michael Leavitt is a decent man, but he is manning a ship weighed down by wrongheaded laws and misplaced priorities. Take the so-called Medicare Modernization Act, the legislation written by the drug industry, written by the HMOs in this Congress, pushed through Congress in the middle of the night by literally one vote. The Federal Government, through that bill, the Federal Government is hand-feeding the prescription drug and HMO industries literally hundreds of billions of dollars of our tax dollars to manufacture or to make up and to build a new private insurance market for seniors' drug coverage, and not to provide the coverage directly through Medicare the way people choose their doctor in Medicare, the way people choose their hospital. This is done through 30, 40, or 50 different private insurance companies instead of being done the way that history shows works best.

Why? Because the drug and insurance industry want it that way. This new drug law, this new Medicare law, as I said, written by the drug industry and written by the HMOs, with seniors barely given a second thought, prohibits the Medicare program from negotiating bulk discounts on prescription drugs. And according to the Congressional Budget Office, it overpays insurers, the HMOs, by tens of billions of dollars. So much for fiscal responsibility.

The new drug law also undercuts the core Medicare program. If you want Medicare to wither on the vine, as former Speaker Gingrich said, wall it off and force seniors into the private market, force them out of Medicare, put them into the private market to give them additional benefits. It is ingenious. It is also underhanded and it is fiscal suicide.

Do my Republican colleagues really believe that when the private insurance market controls Medicare that they will give the government and they will give seniors a good deal on coverage? Do they really believe the drug industry will voluntarily charge lower prices for prescription drugs?

The new Medicare drug law isn't about seniors, it isn't about modernization, it isn't about fiscal responsibility. It is about a Republican-run Congress that is a little too cozy with the drug industry and the HMOs.